

great-grandfather who grew the first American Beauty Rose in the White House garden. Mr. Duff's father also served as an Admiralty lawyer, working with Presidents McKinley and Franklin Roosevelt to establish merchant marine laws. The U.S. Congress and the Maritime Commission recognized his work by naming in his honor a WWII Liberty Ship, the "S.S. Edwin H. Duff."

Mr. Duff served the Air Force Strategic Air Command Headquarters as a photo intelligence specialist, analyzing satellite and U2 photography during the Cold War. In 1962, he made the initial confirmation of a Russian missile in the Havana harbor that ultimately led to the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Mr. Duff also distinguished himself as a wildlife and fisheries biologist in the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management. These agencies, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency, the American Fisheries Society, and Trout Unlimited have recognized him, for his expertise in conserving native fishes and in river restoration.

He was a member of America's first fisheries scientific exchange with the Republic of Ireland in 1989. In the ensuing years, he developed a management plan for restoration of Ireland's salmon species. Ireland was later awarded 19 million pounds from the European Union for this restoration, and Mr. Duff served as the chief external advisor from 1995–2000, restoring over 200 miles of salmon-bearing rivers and habitats. He has been instrumental in providing similar assistance to other European and Asian countries during his career.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Duff's achievements on the occasion of his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO THE COUNTY OF WILL

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the County of Will as it is recognized as the 2004 recipient of the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce's annual "Salute to Industry Award". The County will be the 28th recipient of this award and lies within my 11th Congressional District in Illinois.

Will County was first established in 1836 by an act of the Illinois legislature, which subdivided it from Cook County. The area was a favorite hunting ground for the Indians as it had an abundant supply of water and timber. Travel was facilitated by the old Sauk Trail and by the Des Plaines, DuPage, and Kankakee Rivers.

Today, the County is the fastest growing county in Illinois and the fourth-fastest growing county in the nation. According to the U.S. Census the population of Will County as of April 2001, was a little over 502,000. It is estimated that Will County's population will reach over 800,000 by the year 2020 and over 1 million in 2030.

Will County is the only county in the State of Illinois that has the County Executive System. Mr. Joe Mikan is the current County Executive. The County Board is comprised of 27 members, of which three represent each of the nine districts.

County Executive Mikan and Will County elected officials are always striving for new advances to make it easier for constituents and businesses to operate in the County. They have streamlined business procedures, opened a Workforce Services division, and developed the Will County Archives Center. The County is also pursuing co-sponsorship of the future South Suburban Airport.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize other counties in their own districts whose actions have so greatly benefitted and strengthened America's families and communities.

RECOGNIZING JOAQUIN RECLOSADO, JR., A VETERAN'S VETERAN

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Joaquin Reclosado, Jr., a Marine and California National Guard veteran who is the driving force behind the Annual Sunset Retreat Ceremonies held in Imperial County, California in my Congressional District.

On November 11, 2003, the Eighth Annual Sunset Retreat was conducted by local veterans to celebrate Veterans' Day. Each year, a ceremony is held for veterans, with special attention to veterans of a prior war, women veterans, and this year, Native American veterans.

The Sunset Retreat is the brainchild of Mr. Reclosado, universally recognized as "Junior". He organized the first event in 1996. He oversaw the committees, obtained equipment and the venue, contacted participants, and made certain that the event took place. But for Junior, all agree that the Sunset Retreat Ceremony would not happen!

He was born in Calexico, California in 1935 of Mexican and Filipino parents and attended school in Calexico. He joined the Marines in 1953, serving in Korea and leaving active service in 1963. The next 27 years, Junior spent with the Imperial County Sheriff's Department and serving in the California National Guard. He retired from the Guard at the age of 60 with the rank of Sgt. Major.

In addition to his duties with the annual Sunset Retreat, Junior is active with the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Korean War Veterans Association, and the 1st Marine Division Association, both in Imperial Valley and in the state of California. He organizes Memorial Day ceremonies, MIA-POW recognitions, and the details of veterans' funerals. He arranges for veterans to visit local schools. He is a frequent participant in events of the Imperial Valley United Veterans Council.

Junior Reclosado is someone who is deeply involved in bringing deserved attention to the contributions of the men and women in the Armed Forces and to our country's veterans. He is a veterans' veteran!

I am pleased to take this opportunity to honor him and his service to his community and to our nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, due to the inclement weather my flight was cancelled yesterday and I was absent for rollcall vote No. 6 on H.R. 3493, and rollcall vote No. 7 on H.R. 1385.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on each of these rollcall votes.

BILL TO HONOR FORMER GOVERNOR LUIS A. FERRÉ

HON. ANÍBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Mr. Speaker, last October, the people of Puerto Rico lost a great man. Former Governor Luis A. Ferré was a visionary who dedicated his life to his country. As Governor from 1968 to 1972, he was a proponent of many projects that ensured great economic development for the island. To honor his life, today I am introducing legislation, as a companion to legislation introduced by Senator RICK SANTORUM in the Senate, to designate the Luis A. Ferré United States Courthouse and Post Office Building, located at 93 Atocha Street in Ponce, PR, as a tribute to his life and work.

Former Governor Ferré was a brilliant politician, musician, businessman, and philanthropist who dedicated his life to serving his people and moving Puerto Rico forward. During his term as Governor, he created, among other things, the Environmental Quality Board, the Departments of Natural Resources and Housing, the Office of Youth Affairs, and the Tourism Company. Throughout his life, he also demonstrated his unwavering commitment to Puerto Rican culture and the arts by founding what is now the biggest newspaper in Puerto Rico and the Art Museum of Ponce.

He was an extraordinary man whose efforts and endeavors gave luster to Puerto Rico and to his native city of Ponce. During his years in the public service, he demonstrated true commitment and dedication to his country and his city by initiating public works and creating projects that contributed to the modern and developed Puerto Rico that we enjoy today.

His love for Puerto Rico and its people will live on forever in the hearts of all Puerto Ricans. Giving his name to the U.S. Courthouse and Post Office building in Ponce is a simple but long-lasting way to recognize his work and honor his life, and I ask you to join me in celebrating his life.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of honor that I rise to celebrate